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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/881,505	06/14/2001	Bipul Binit Sinha	oracle01.016	7778

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EXAMINER	
LEROUX, ETIENNE PIERRE	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2171
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	SF
	09/881,505	SINHA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Etienne P LeRoux	2171	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 14 June 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ . 6) Other: ____

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Pat No 5,335,343 issued to Lampson et al (hereafter Lampson '343).

Claim 1:

Lampson '343 discloses a method of ensuring that a first component of a distributed system that normally has access to certain messages from other components thereof is additionally aware of a state of one or more of the other components that is relevant to an action performed by the first component, the method comprising the step practiced in the first component of:

- receiving augmented ones of the certain messages, each of the augmented certain messages having been augmented by an other component to additionally contain information indicating the relevant state of the other component [commit directive, prepare message to cohorts, Fig 20, 27 and 28]
- for at least some of the other components, retaining the relevant state from an augmented message of the other component, and performing the action as determined by the retained relevant state [abort log record, col 13, lines 45-58]

Claim 2:

Lampson '343 discloses the messages are part of a transaction, the action belongs to the first component's portion of a protocol for ensuring that the results of the transaction are consistent in the components, in the step of receiving augmented ones of the certain messages, the information indicating the relevant state indicates whether the transaction will modify data in the other component, and in the step of performing the action, the first component optimizes the protocol as determined by the retained state [col 5, lines 30-50].

Claim 3:

Lampson '343 discloses the protocol is a two-phase commit protocol, the first component is the coordinator for the protocol, and in the step of performing the action, the first component sends a message that aborts the transaction to an other component when the other component's state indicates that the transaction does not modify the data in the other component [col 5, lines 50-63 and Fig 5].

Claim 4:

Lampson '343 discloses the distributed system is a distributed database system and the components are database systems therein [Figs 1 and 2].

Claim 5:

Lampson '343 discloses a method of ensuring that a first component of a distributed system that normally accesses messages that belong to a transaction and that are received from other components thereof is additionally aware of a state of one or more of the other components that is relevant to the transaction, the method comprising the steps practiced in the other component of:

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- determining the relevant state [col 2, lines 36-53], and
- augmenting certain of the messages sent in the course of the transaction with state information indicating the relevant state of the other component, the first component determining an action to be taken with regard to the transaction from the state information [col 2, lines 48-53]

Claim 6:

Lampson '343 discloses the relevant state indicates whether the transaction will modify data in the other component [col 2, lines 18-25]

Claim 7:

Lampson '343 discloses the protocol is a two-phase commit protocol, and the other component receives an abort message of the protocol when the relevant state indicates that the transaction will not modify the data in the other component [col 4, lines 33-40]

Claim 8:

Lampson '343 discloses the distributed system is a distributed database system and the components are database systems therein [Fig 1]

Claim 9:

Lampson '343 discloses a method of executing a two-phase commit protocol for a transaction, the transaction involving a coordinator and a cohort and the method comprising the performed in the coordinator of :
receiving a message required for the transaction from the cohort, the message being augmented with state information indicating whether the transaction modifies the cohort's data, retaining the state information for the cohort, and if the state information for the cohort indicates that the

transaction does not modify the cohort, sending an abort message of the two-phase commit to the cohort [col 13, lines 45-60].

Claim 10:

Lampson '343 discloses a method of executing a two-phase commit protocol for a transaction, the transaction involving a coordinator and a cohort and the method comprising the steps performed in the cohort of:

augmenting a message that the cohort sends to the coordinator as part of the transaction with state information indicating whether the transaction will modify the cohort, and responding to messages received from the coordinator as required by the commit protocol, the coordinator sending a message of the commit protocol to the cohort as determined by the state information [col 14, lines 11-20]

3. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Pat No 5,917,998 issued to Cabrera et al (hereafter Cabrera '998).

Claim 1:

Cabrera '998 discloses a method of ensuring that a first component of a distributed system that normally has access to certain messages from other components thereof is additionally aware of a state of one or more of the other components that is relevant to an action performed by the first component, the method comprising the step practiced in the first component of:

- receiving augmented ones of the certain messages, each of the augmented certain messages having been augmented by an other component to additionally contain information indicating the relevant state of the other component [col 7, lines 16-22]

- for at least some of the other components, retaining the relevant state from an augmented message of the other component, and performing the action as determined by the retained relevant state [col 7, lines 5-15 and Fig 6]

Claim 2:

Cabrera '998 discloses the messages are part of a transaction, the action belongs to the first component's portion of a protocol for ensuring that the results of the transaction are consistent in the components, in the step of receiving augmented ones of the certain messages, the information indicating the relevant state indicates whether the transaction will modify data in the other component, and in the step of performing the action, the first component optimizes the protocol as determined by the retained state [col 4, lines 36-50]

Claim 3:

Cabrera '998 discloses the protocol is a two-phase commit protocol, the first component is the coordinator for the protocol, and in the step of performing the action, the first component sends a message that aborts the transaction to an other component when the other component's state indicates that the transaction does not modify the data in the other component [Fig 2 and col 5, lines 1-10]

Claim 4:

Cabrera '998 discloses the distributed system is a distributed database system and the components are database systems therein [Fig 1]

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4. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Pat No 5,452,445 issued to Hallmark et al (hereafter Hallmark '445).

Claim 1:

Hallmark '445 discloses a method of ensuring that a first component of a distributed system that normally has access to certain messages from other components thereof is additionally aware of a state of one or more of the other components that is relevant to an action performed by the first component, the method comprising the step practiced in the first component of:

- receiving augmented ones of the certain messages, each of the augmented certain messages having been augmented by an other component to additionally contain information indicating the relevant state of the other component [distributed query, col 7, lines 29-35]
- for at least some of the other components, retaining the relevant state from an augmented message of the other component, and performing the action as determined by the retained relevant state [col 7, lines 37-41]

Claim 2:

Hallmark '445 discloses the messages are part of a transaction, the action belongs to the first component's portion of a protocol for ensuring that the results of the transaction are consistent in the components, in the step of receiving augmented ones of the certain messages, the information indicating the relevant state indicates whether the transaction will modify data in the other component, and in the step of performing the action, the first component optimizes the protocol as determined by the retained state [col 8, lines 1-22]

Claim 3:

Hallmark '445 discloses the protocol is a two-phase commit protocol, the first component is the coordinator for the protocol, and in the step of performing the action, the first component sends a message that aborts the transaction to an other component when the other component's state indicates that the transaction does not modify the data in the other component [abstract]

Claim 4:

Hallmark '445 discloses the distributed system is a distributed database system and the components are database systems therein [Fig 1]

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Etienne LeRoux whose telephone number is (703) 305-0620. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic, can be reached on (703) 308-1436.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Etienne LeRoux

September 9, 2003



SAFET METJAHIC
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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